LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #22 Buying - Get a Better Price in China!

CONTENTS

2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
5 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

#22

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 二十块钱？太贵了！
2. B: 不贵。
3. A: 便宜一点儿吧。
4. B: 十块怎么样？
5. A: 好的。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 二十塊錢？太貴了！
2. B: 不貴。
3. A: 便宜一點兒吧。
4. B: 十塊怎麼樣？
5. A: 好的。

PINYIN

1. A: Ershí kuài ? Tài guì le!
2. B: Bù guì.

CONT'D OVER

3. A: Piányi yīdiǎnr ba.

4. B: Shí kuài zěnmeyàng?

5. A: Hǎo de.

ENGLISH

1. A: Twenty RMB? That's too expensive!

2. B: It's not expensive.

3. A: Could you make it a little cheaper?

4. B: How about ten RMB?

5. A: Okay.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
便宜	便宜	piányi	inexpensive; cheap
二十	二十	èrshí	twenty (20)
吧	吧	ba	(particle; denotes suggestion)
十	十	shí	ten (10)
太	太	tài	too
一点儿	一點兒	yīdiǎnr	a little

钱	錢	qián	money
了	了	le	(change of state particle)
不	不	bù	(negative prefix)
块	块	kuài	(measure word for money)
怎么样	怎麼樣	zěnmeyàng	how about it
贵	貴	guì	expensive

SAMPLE SENTENCES

便宜一点儿，可以吗? Piányi yìdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma? Can (you) make it a little cheaper?	那个二十块钱。 Nàge èrshí kuài qián. That one is twenty kuai.
好，我点吧。 Hǎo, wǒ diǎn ba. Okay, I'll order.	十块钱。 Shí kuài qián. Ten yuan.
夏天太热了。 Xiàtiān tài rè le. The summer is too hot.	他只会说一点儿。 Tā zhǐ huì shuō yīdiǎnr. He can only speak a little.
16块钱。 Shí liù kuài qián. Sixteen Renminbi.	昨天下雨了。 Zuótiān xiàyǔ le. It rained yesterday.
我不认识他。 Wǒ bù rènshi tā. I don't know him.	这条裙子一百块钱. Zhè tiáo qúnzi yì bǎi kuài qián. This skirt is one hundred RMB.

今天天气怎么样? Jīntiān tiānqì zěnmeyàng ? How is the weather today?	东京的甜瓜很贵。 Dōngjīng de tiánguā hěn guì. Melons in Tokyo are very expensive.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Adding Emphasis - 太。。。了 (*tài... le*)
太 贵 了 !
Tài guì le!
"Too expensive!"

We use the pattern 太...了 to add emphasis. The adjective that is placed between the 太 (*tài*) and the 了 (*le*) is what is being emphasized. In the example from this lesson's dialogue, the person feels the price is "too expensive" or "so expensive," and therefore uses this expression. Other commonly used 太...了 expressions that you will hear a lot are:

1. 太好了
   tài hǎo le
   "Great!"

2. 太晚了
   tài wǎn le
   "Too late"

(adjective) + 一点儿 (*yīdiǎnr*)

便宜一点儿
Piányi yīdiǎnr
"a little cheaper"

We use 一点儿 (*yīdiǎnr*), or just 点儿 or 点 to soften the tone or say "a little" or "a bit." The

pattern is:

Adjective + 一点儿 (*yīdiǎnr*). Please note that sometimes we shorten 一点儿 (*yīdiǎnr*) to 点儿 (*diǎnr*) or even just 点 (*diǎn*).

Making a Suggestion - 吧 (*ba*)

便宜一点儿吧。
Piányi yīdiǎnr ba.
"Could you make it a little cheaper?"

吧 (*Ba*) is a modal particle we use at the end of a sentence to turn a statement into a suggestion. It also softens the tone.

For Example:

1. 进去吧
   jìnqù ba
   "Go in"

2. 走吧
   zǒu ba
   "Let's go"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Hagglers

Rarely is the price on the price tag the price paid for an item in China. Haggling over prices is expected. Depending on the outlet, you can get anywhere from ten to ninety percent off the quoted price. So learn from the locals, and sharpen up your bargaining skills so you don't end up being ripped off.